

Appl. No. 10/034,205

Reply to Office Action of: March 24, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the current drawing sheet containing Figures 6 and 7 with the replacement drawing sheet containing an amended Figure 6 and originally filed Figure 7, submitted herewith.

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REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Applicants advise that a change of correspondence address is being filed concurrently with this response. Applicants also advise that the attorney docket number for the present application has changed, and the new attorney docket number is noted above. Applicants kindly request that the Office amend its records to indicate same.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowability of either claim 9 or claim 11 if rewritten in independent form.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to correct several typographical errors identified by the Applicants. No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 6 is amended to include both numeric and descriptive labels for elements 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67. Figures 6 and 7 appear on the same drawing sheet. Accordingly, the replacement sheet submitted herewith contains an amended Figure 6 and Figure 7 as originally filed. No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to correct a typographical error, and to include the limitations of claim 9, consistent with the amendments made to claim 8 discussed below.

Claims 5 and 7 are amended to correct typographical errors in their respective dependencies.

Claim 8 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel claim 9.

Claim 11 is amended to correct typographical errors.

New claim 12 is added. New claim 12 corresponds to the subject matter of original claim 11, rewritten in independent form.

No new matter is believed to be added by way of these amendments.

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Objections to the Drawings

Applicants acknowledge that Figure 4b added on September 27, 2002 has been deemed acceptable by the Examiner.

The drawings have been objected to because the elements in the drawings should contain descriptive as well as numeric labels, particularly with respect to Figure 6. Figure 6 is amended as discussed above, and a replacement sheet is submitted herewith in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121(d). Applicants believe the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 has been objected to for reciting "...an optical multiplexer connected to each of said laser driver". This passage is amended to read "...an optical multiplexer connected to each of said at least one laser" as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe this amendment overcomes the Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 11 is amended in a manner similar to that suggested by the Examiner, and claim 11 is hereby submitted to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Double Patenting

Claims 5 and 7 have been objected to under 37 CFR §1.75 as being substantial duplicates thereof. Claims 5 and 7 are amended to correct their dependencies. Claim 5 now depends on claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1. Claim 7 now depends on claim 6, which is also dependent on claim 1. Claims 4 and 6 are distinct from each other, therefore, Applicants believe the double patenting objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 and 10 have been rejected under either 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103, in view of US Patent Nos. 5,416,628 to Betti; 4,700,352 to Shikada; 6,363,175 to Scheirer et al.; and 4,824,201 to Kazovsky.

Claims 9 and 11 were found allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form.

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Claims 1 and 8 are amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, and new claim 12 corresponds to original claim 11 rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections to claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are thereby rendered moot; and new claim 12 is allowable for at least the reasons set out by the Examiner in the Office Action. Therefore, claims 1, 8 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 and 10-11 are also believed to be in condition for allowance due to their dependencies on either claim 1 or claim 8.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome, and that the specification and claims 1-8 and 10-12 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants request early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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